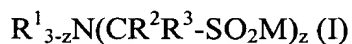


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously amended): A process for controlled partial decolorization of vat- or sulfur-dyed or -printed textile material, which comprises treating the textile material to be lightened or decolorized with one or more compounds of the formula I



where

z is 1, 2 or 3,

R¹ is

a) when z is 1 or 2: hydrogen, alkyl of 1 to 18 carbon atoms or HOCH₂CH₂,

b) when z is 2: additionally OH, and

c) when z is 1: either as defined under a) independently for the two R¹ radicals or as defined under a) in one instance and as defined under b) in the other,

R² and R³, which may be the same or different, are each hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 4 carbon atoms subject to the proviso that together they have not more than 4 carbon atoms, and

M is one equivalent of a mono- or divalent metal atom,

at pH 4 - 7, optionally followed by an aftertreatment with hydrogen peroxide.

Claim 2 (original): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein in one or more compounds of the formula I used z is 3 and R¹, R² and R³ are each hydrogen.

Claim 3 (previously amended): A process as claimed in claim 1, utilizing mixtures of compounds of the formula I where the z indices have different meanings, where R¹, R², R³, z

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and M are each as defined above and the molar ratio of sulfur-containing compounds to nitrogen-containing compounds is in the range from 0.2 to 1.1.

Claim 4 (original): A process as claimed in claim 1, utilizing mixtures of compounds of the formula I with the corresponding aminoalkanesulfonates where the ratio of aminoalkanesulfinic acid to aminoalkanesulfonic acid is from about 3:1 to about 1:3.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the textile material is additionally treated with one or more further assistants selected from the group consisting of backstain inhibitors, ~~and/or~~ dispersants ~~and/or~~ surfactants.

Claim 6 (original): A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ratio of an aminoalkanesulfonate to further assistants is in the range from 20:1 to 5:1.

Claim 7 (original): A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein the backstain inhibitor is polyvinylpyrrolidone, oleic acid alkoxylate or fatty acid alkoxylate.

Claim 8 (original): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compounds of the formula I are printed in the form of a print paste onto the dyeing to be bleached.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (canceled)

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Claim 11 (previously amended): A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein in the compounds the z indices have different meanings for preparing discharge prints.

Claim 12 (previously added): A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the textile material is a denim fabric.

Claim 13 (previously added): A process as claimed in claim 1, which is followed by an aftertreatment with hydrogen peroxide.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein in the mixtures the various compounds are mixtures in which the various compounds are present in that ratio which corresponds to their equilibrium concentration in an aqueous system of compounds of the formula I, the amine or the hydroxylamine of the formula $R^1_{3-z}NH_2$, and a hydroxy alkane sulfinate of the formula $HO-CR^2R^3SO_2M$ wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and M are as defined.

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BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claim 5 has been amended in a manner as kindly suggested by the Examiner so as to obviate it asserted indefiniteness.

Claim 14 has been amended so as to make its meaning clear, consistent with the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 of the specification.